

Gathering & Welcoming God's Presence

Prelude

Jean Okuye

GREETINGS

Light the Candle of Advent –the Candle of Joy (Pink)

Reader One; No matter what troubles overwhelm us today, Isaiah reminds us that in all of our preparation and passionate pursuit of God's coming kin-dom, we must not forget that God's salvation has come and is coming. "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation" (Isaiah 12:3). With joy you will remember that God's salvation is already present among us.

Congregation: Faced with the troubles and the suffering of the world, we choose to live in joyful presence to God and one another. We will not turn away from the pain and the hurt in our world, and we will not stop rejoicing in God, whose salvation fills us to overflowing that God's love might flow through us and flood our troubled world with hope, peace, and joy.

Reader Two; We light this candle of joy as a sign of our commitment to be present to ourselves, our friends, our families, and our neighbors that in sharing our vulnerable lives we might share in the glorious joy of God's salvation together.

Light the Third Candle of the Advent—HOPE AND PEACE AND JOY (pink) ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Adult Bible Studies -- Sundays @9:30am
2. Candlelight Service on 12/24@7pm.
3. Mochi 12/28

Opening Prayer: Eternal Creator, with you each moment of life is full of wonder and surprise. We pray you to make us watchful as we await the coming of Christ. Grant that we may not be found sleeping in sin, but awake and rejoicing in your newness of life. Through the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

LUMC's Vision Statement:

"Show God's love by accepting, supporting, and serving all people." Matthew 25:35,36,40

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Children of God, our world is full of the fruit of humanity's greed, apathy, and neglect for the love of God, neighbor, self, and all creation. What, then, should we do?

People: Our world is also full of the fruit of God's love that wells up all around us, sustaining us, saving us, reviving us to live as the people of God. What, then, should we do?

Leader: God encircles us on every side, Love divine present with us in creation, in community, and in the anticipated arrival of the infant Emmanuel. What, then, children of God, should you do?

All: We will live in joyful presence with God and neighbor, turning away from sin and toward a life with God and one another marked by joy, justice, and mercy. Amen.

Hymn: O Come, All Ye Faithful v 1-3,6

UMH#234

TIME TO SHARE OUR JOY AND CONCERN

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor Kalo

The Lord's Prayer (in unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

OFFERING

DOXOLOGY

UMH#95

OFFERTORY PRAYER

*HYMN; In the Bleak Midwinter v 1-4

UMH#221

SCRIPTURE

Luke 3:7-18

Message: "The Great Expectation"

*HYMN; It's Me, It's Me, O Lord v 1-3

UMH#352

*BENEDICTION:

*POSTLUDE

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 3:7-18

⁷ John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?" ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ⁹ The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." ¹⁰ "What should we do then?" the crowd asked. ¹¹ John answered, "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same." ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?" ¹³ "Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them. ¹⁴ Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?" He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely—be content with your pay." ¹⁵ The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. ¹⁶ John answered them all, "I baptize you with^[a] water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with^[b] the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." ¹⁸ And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

Reader: This is the Word of God Congregation: **Thanks be to God**

LIVINGSTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A PLACE WHERE EVERYONE IS RESPECTED

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Visit our website, www.lcaumc.org, to watch our Sunday Worship

Service live! [YouTube Channel](#)

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Third Sunday of Advent December 15, 2024

Sunday Worship 10:30 am

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